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A LETTER

FROM A

COMMONER of ENGLAND,

TO A

Member of the Honourable H--- of C---

S I R,

Being willing to fullfil your Desire concerning my Opinion on the late ADDRESS, I have here sent you my Thoughts thereon, which are as follow :

1. **T**Heir L—ps are pleas'd to Observe, That } *l.* *s.* *d.*
in three Years time the Navy has exceed- } 366032 17 2
ed its Charge Allowed by Parliament——— }

2ly, They have Issued for the Use of the Navy }
short of the Sum Allowed to that Service, the } 1142361 2 4
Sum of——— }

3ly, The Debt of the Navy in two Years, has }
Increased to the Sum of——— } 1250097 14 1

4thly, There wanted of the Compliment of Men allow'd for
the Sea-Service 1566 Persons.

5thly, There were last Year 10 Flags in Pay of the Navy, and
that Three were not in their Posts, viz. The H. — Churchill Esq;
Gradon, and Sir Jam. Wisbart.

6thly, The Pensions of the Navy since the Year
1697, are Increased, that the Estimate for 1705 } 18011 0 0
comes to——— }

7thly, That Sir Job. M — n (who, Her Majesty
was pleas'd to turn out for not Doing his Duty) has }
a Pension of——— } 319 17 6

8thly, The Pension of Admiral N—P's Wid. which is set down
Continued, has not been paid her two Years last past.

9thly, The Prince's Council in the Admiralty, }
are Allowed per Annum——— } 7000 0 0

And yet there is paid but 1000 *l.* per }
An. to each Council and in the Years } 1702 } There { 4
} 1703 } are but { 5
} 1704 } { 6

10thly, The H. — Churchill Esq.'s Appointments
for the Navy, are First Council to the Prince per *An.* 1000 0 0

A Pension of——— }
Admiral of the Blue per *An.* } 6500 0 0

For his Table-Money, }
} 1277 10 0
} 0265 0 0

And lastly, Tho' by Parliament there are allow'd 43 Cruisers and Convoys for our Merchantmen, there has not been Employ'd at any time not 22, and they have not done the Duty of 3 Ships for the Protection of our Trade; all which Observations they have humbly laid before the Queen, and do rest assur'd that Her Majesty in her Great Wisdom and tender Concern for the Happiness of her Subjects, will dispose Her Self to apply the proper Remedies. And they humbly beseech Her to give Commands, that all possible Methods may be taken for the Encouragement of Seamen, the Guarding of the Coasts, and the Protection of Trade.

These, Sir, are the Heads of what was presented to Her Majesty. Now I beg your Patience to hear what may by way of Observation be Reply'd to each Particular.

First, Then, their Lps observe that in three Years time the Navy has exceeded its Charge allowed by Parliament---366032 17 2

This at first View seems a heavy Charge on the Government; but with humble Submission, it is presum'd their L——ps are not all bred Accomptants, and therefore not so much Blameable as some are. I confess it Startled me at this Time of Day to see so Good, so Gracious, so Mild, and so Gentle a Government, Charg'd with such an Inconsiderable Sum, not worth mentioning, Considering its length of Time, viz. Three Years. We cannot Forget the Miscarriages of a late Reign so soon; when some of the L——ds of a C—— were Impeach'd for the Imbezzlement of the Kingdom's Treasure. Let them but look back, and they shall find above twice as much Exceeded in the same Service for the same Time.

When E—— R—— Esq; (now L—— O——d) was Treasurer of the Navy, there was then Actually Receiv'd out of the Exchequer for that Service, from *Michaelmas* 91, to *Michaelmas* 94, viz. Three Years, the Sum of ———— 6170359 10 3 ¼

The Estimate allowed by Parliament for the Navy, amounts for the same Time, but to ———— 5400000 0 0 0

So that the Charge of the Navy did Exceed what was design'd by Parliament, the Sum of ———— --770359 10 3 ¼

And then no Complaint was made of it; yet our Three years Inconsiderable Sum, viz ———— --366033 17 2 0

Is a Monstrous Charge now, yet theirs Exceed }
this by ———— } 404325 13 1 ¼

What wou'd not the Saints have said! If such a Sum as this, had fell upon the Party the L——ds are now Accusing?

Secondly, That the Admiralty have Issued short of the Sum allotted by Parliament for that Service, the Sum of -- 1142361 2 4

But their L——ns wisely Observe, That the Navy Accompts

makes the Sum receiv'd by the Treasurer of the Navy, between
Michaelmas, 1701, and *Michaelmas*, 1704, to amount to the Sum
 _____ * 6193094 15 0
 of _____ 5420700 11 1 0

Which if Subtracted from the Provisions intended by Parlia-
 ment * which I have placed above the last Sum, and then it will
 come to but _____ 672394 3 11

So that their L — ps have over-Charged the Admiralty in
 this Article, by _____ 469966 18 5

Proof, _____ 1142361 2 4

Now, Sir, if the Sum _____ 366033 17 2

Be Added with the Sum of Provisions _____ 672394 3 11

Intended by Parliament for the Navys Use.

Then the Sum will be _____ 1038428 1 1

Which is all their L — ps can pretend to Charge the Treas-
 urer of the Navy with, and we hope their Honours think it in
 safe Hands, so long as Sir T — L — is of Ability to make
 it good, if not, pray let 'em speak.

Thirldy, It appears at *Michaelmas*, 1704, the Debt of the Navy
 to be _____ 2266864 17 10

And the Navy Debt at *Michaelmas*, 1702, came but to
 _____ 1016767 3 9

So that it has Inceas'd in Two Years time to _____ 1250097 14 1

And well it may, for it appears by the Treasury Books
 that the Sums given by the Parliirment, have fallen short, and by
 the Extraordinary Expences of the War, viz. The Taking of *Gib-*
raltar, and the Beating of the *French Fleet*, must needs Increase
 the Debt considerably, as the Treasurer's Books observe, to the
 Sum of _____ 1194249 16 5

And if any Complaint ought to be made, it was on the Govern-
 ments side, and not on their L — ps, as if a Mismanagement;
 but those L — of the C —, I presume, knew which way
 they crept into fair Estates, by Fingering of the Publick Treas-
 ure of the Nation, and now would make all Persons as Guilty,
&c. that they might come off the easier.

To the 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 Articles, if there be any Misma-
 nagement or Imbezzlement in them, they are so Inconsiderable, not
 worth the taking Notice of, and especially by the H — of P —.

Allow the 3 Flag Officers Pay and Table comes to per Annum
 4927*l.* 10*s.* for 3 Years, comes to _____ 14781 10 0

We'll allow a Misapplication of the Navy's Pensions to amount
 for 3 Years (tho' in Truth it is not so) to _____ 000 3000 0

And that the P — Council for 3 years have Imbezzled the
 Sum of _____ 000 26000 10

Now what a mighty Sum is this, viz. 23681 l. 10 s. for 3 years Time to Complain of, Sir; This is but a Flea-bite, to what I shall demonstrate to you.

You cannot forget, Sir, that a Lord C—— was Impeach'd; not long since, for a Considerable Sum of Money he had got; he was not contented with his Place that brought him 4000 l. per An. but the late K. W. allow'd him besides, a Pension of 4000 l. per An. more; and yet he procur'd to himself the Grants of several Manors; Fee-Farm-Rents, Quit-Rents, &c. to the Value of

33600 00

So that this Person has exceeded all their Imbezlements, viz. ————— 23781 10 0

By ————— 9819 10

But give me leave to Sum up their Lordships whole Charge, as well as the Imbezlements, &c. against those Persons, and you will find they appear not so Great Charge as made:

First then, as for the Debt of the Navy of ——— 2266864 17 2 I will leave it as I found it, to be made good by Parliament.

2dly, As for what the Navy has Exceeded its Charge by Act of Parliament, viz. ————— 0366032 17 2

I will make it a Charge on the Navy, as Money over paid for the Navies Use above the Sum allow'd by Parliament.

3dly, As for what the Navy has Issued short of the Sum allotted by Parliament, I have sufficient Warrant to Charge it

0672394 3 11

4thly, The unnecessary Pay of Three Flag Officers, I'll Charge

0014781 10 0

5thly, A suppos'd Misapplication of the Pensions for Three Years ————— 0003000 0 0

And lastly, An Imbezlement of Three Years Money for the P—— Council ————— 0006000 0 0

So that the whole Cash in Hands, the Misapplications and Imbezlements for 3 Years Time, comes to but 1062211 11 1

To which may be Answer'd; First, as their Lordships do find by the Navy Accompts, the Money Exceeded, did amount in 3 Years Time to a Considerable Sum, yet they don't say 'twas not apply'd to that Use; therefore, I presume, I have good Warrant to Discharge the Navy of that Sum, as paid, which is 0366032 17 2

2dly, The 3 Flag Officers are paid the Sum of 0014781 10 0

And Lastly, the Pensions are paid, viz. ——— 0003000 0 0 0

Total is ——— 0383814 7 2

Therefore all as can be pretended to be in Hands, Misapply'd, or Imbezcel'd, for Three Years Time, is but ——— 678397 3 11

And whether this mighty Sum ben't issued to the Yards and Vessellers, is the Question: and those Ministers best know whether

be so or no, for I shan't Justify 'em in it; but what I have to offer may mollify this Great Offence.

Sir, I can't but remind you, and give me leave to shew what Considerable Charges and Imbezlements there was brought on the Nation in so small a time as Five Years.

The Lord R—— hath actually receiv'd out of the Exchequer, for the Army, from *Michaelmas*, 1691, to *Michaelmas*, 1696, (not Compting the Pay for the Army in *Ireland*) the Sum of 9267921 13 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Estimate allowed by Parliament for the Army, came the same time but to 6500000 0 0 0

So that the Army has been over paid by 2767921 13 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

E — R — Esq; (now L — O —) hath Receiv'd out of the Exchequer, for Pay of the Navy for the same time 9108833 10 2 0

The Treasurer of the Ordnance for Sea and Land Service, hath Receiv'd for the said time, the Sum of 1542826 05 09 $\frac{1}{2}$

Total. 10652669 15 11 $\frac{1}{2}$

Now the Estimate of the Navy, Yards, Ordnance, and Victualers for the same time, comes to but 9000000 0 0 0

So that the Navy and Ordnance, &c. have been over paid by 1652669 15 11 $\frac{1}{2}$

There has been actually Receiv'd out of the Exchequer, for the Civil List for the same time, the Sum of 3455302 8 0 0

The Estimate for the Civil List comes for the said time, but to — 3000000 0 0 0

So that the Civil List has been over paid by 455302 8 0 0

Upon these Heads there has been over paid as follows:

To the Army, 2767921 13 04 $\frac{1}{2}$

To the Navy, Ordnance, &c. 1652669 15 11 $\frac{1}{2}$

To the Civil List, 0455302 08 00 0

Total 4875893 17 04 $\frac{1}{2}$

And yet the Debt of Army, Navy, Ordnance, &c. and the Civil List, amounted to that time, to the Sum of 6000000 0 0 0

So that in 5 Years there was actually Imbezell'd or Misapply'd 10875893 17 4 $\frac{1}{2}$

Now, Sir, how much was paid out of the Army, Navy, &c. short of these Proportions Allow'd by Parliament, will also be worth the Enquiry of your Honourable House.

But to their L — ps last Observation; they say that 43 Cruisers and Convoys are Allow'd by Parliament to Protect our Merchants from the Enemy, and that not 22 have been Employ'd at any time; nor have they done the Duty of 3 Cruising Ships, which they think is a Great Hardship on the Subject, and Endangers their Trade; and beseech Her Majesty, that all possible Methods may be taken for the Encouragement of Seamen, the Guarding of the Coasts, and the Protection of Trade.

Certainly their L — ps think this Nation has a very Treacherous Memo-

ay, to forget so soon the Complaint your H — H — of C — made to their Lordships upon this very Subject; let 'em remember that one Article of your *Impeachment* against A — R — was this; *That when several Complaints were made by the Old East-India Company to the Lords of the Admiralty (his Lp. being Chief C —) of divers Pyracies in the South Seas, to the Destruction of their Trade, that he Rejected their Request, and procur'd a C — for Capt. K —, who went a P —; and that the said C — Commanded Capt. S — to deliver several Able Seamen out of the D — (when the Nation was Threatned with an Invasion from France) to Capt. H —, and they went a P —.*

2dly, That the L — S — and B —, &c. got a Grant under the G — S — in 97 to have all the Ships, &c. Goods, Treasures, &c. Taken since 30 Apr. 1696 by P —, without Account.

And that the said S — put the G — S — unto a Treaty with F — whereby Great Dominions were given that King, to the Prejudice of the Merchants Trade in General.

But I am very Glad their Lps. begin to be so Vigilant in National Miscarriages; for, with humble Submission, I think 'tis high time they were all Redress'd: I am sure your Honourable House has been many Years labouring hard to bring it to pass, and have been as often prevented therein by their Lps. not being at Leisure, or at least, not in an Humour to do it; which Refusal, your Honourable House not long since Voted to be a Denyal of J — (in their Lps.) to the Common Cause, and an Hindrance to the Publick Benefit of this Kingdom in General; and since they have Publickly beganto Address Her Majesty, *That this Publick Grievance may be Redress'd*, tho' very Inconsiderable, yet if not Check'd in the Blossom, who knows what an Height it may at last come to? I think, Time now offers to Redress 'em all, and once your H. H. desir'd such an Opportunity; and you cannot do less for our Countries Service than Vigorously and with all Dilligence to Prosecute this Affair, and to go Hand in Hand with their Lps. to Accomplish it; for tho' I am an High-Church-Man, yet, Sir, I am not for having the Government Impos'd on, nor the Nation's Treasure Imbezzled, or profusely Spent in needless Pensions, &c. by any manner of Persons, either *High Church*, *Low* or *No Church*, and whoever is Catch'd in the Transgression, and spared, by one side or t'other, can be no Good Subject, nor an Hearty Lover of Her Majesty and Government.

It mightily Rejoyces me to see their Lps. Eyes begin to be Opened, and that they can spy Faults and Mismanagements in Government as well as other Persons; tho' I must confess there is no Government so infallible but may Err in some Matters; which Errors are very Visible in the late Reign as well as in this; and since it so often happens; it may be convenient to Remind their Lps. of your late *Impeachments*, that all Offenders and Imbezzlers of the Publick Treasure may be brought to a strict Account; This is what you always Aim'd at for the Nations Service, and have always con-

tinu'd so to do by your Constant Addressing Her Majesty, and since I have made it so visible in four Heads, that upwards of Ten Millions of Money has been Imbezzled in Five Years time, 'tis to be Hop'd their Lps. will be pleas'd to Condescend that the late Ministers of State be brought to an Accompt as well as the present.

I hope by this time their Lps. are thorowly convinc'd in their Judgments, that it is high time they were brought to an Accompt; which if done, I am sure would be a very great Service to the Nation, and would deserve the Publick Thanks of the Kingdom: This would Encourage the Nation and Seamen chearfully to go on in the Common Cause, the one with their Purse, and the other with their Lives; but if their Lps. will contentedly set down only with the Accusation of the Navy, of a *Churchill*, a *Greydon*, or a *Munden*, for so Inconsiderable a Sum (which all their Lps. can pretend to Charge is not an Imbezzlement) of 678397 *l.* 3 *s.* 11 *d.* will look only like a Party-Quarrel, and shew they take delight in exposing their Mismanagement, when they suffer an O —, a R —, a S —, &c. to go away unpunished with upwards of Thirty Millions of the Kingdom's Money unaccounted for; this I hope their Lps. will take care to avoid, like true *English* Patriots, and not suffer the Government and Nation to be Miserably Oppressed, by both Parties.

It cannot enter into my Thoughts but their Lps. will do all Things for the Good of the Nation in General; yet I am somewhat surprized to see their Address to the Queen, Printed by their Authority; I can't tell what to make of it, it looks so much like the *Observer's* Appealing to the People, designing to Expose the Miscarriages in Government on one side, and let the Greatest Imbezzlements on the other go free; but their Lps. have mightily miss'd their Ends in it, if they intend so, for the Address is so seasonably come out, that it will very much open the Eyes of the Nation; and if the Grievances ben't Redress'd on all Sides, 'twill look like a Party Address Dissenting from the Kingdom's True Interest, and so they may become the *Odium* of the Nation; but let us hope for better Things from their Honours.

Another Thing to me seems very odd, and looks just like the *Stranger* and *Satyr* in the Fable, that blew both *Hot* and *Cold* in a *Breath*; or what can be the meaning of Settling a Grateful Reward on his Grace the Duke of *Marlborough* for his Eminent Service done to the Publick Cause in General? And yet at the same time to Repine at his Brother *Churchill's* Inconsiderable *per Annum* of 3142 *l.* 10 *s.* which their Lps. have caused to be Printed at Large in their late Address to Her Majesty; one would think that what his Grace had done, might easily have swallow'd up so small a Trifle as his staying at Home, without their Lps. Publick Notice thereof.

If the Nation's Grievances are heartily design'd to be Redress'd, I think 'twould be very Convenient their Lps. should joyn with your H. House, to call all Evil Ministers of State to a speedy Account.

Secondly, In the next place to secure the Government, and the Church of England, as by Law Establish'd, and not suffer 'em to be Insulted and Belly'd by the Whiggish Enemies of State, both at Home and Abroad.

And *Lastly*, To secure to our Merchants their Trade, and this in some Measure will Enable you to secure the whole State.

But if we must Tumble into Faction, and only Accuse one Party because the least, and let the other go free, because the Greatest Offenders; 'tis just like *Alexander's* Pyrate, that was Condemn'd to be Hang'd for Robbing in a Small Vessel, whilst he himself with his Great Fleets Triumph'd in Spoyleing and Ruinning of the Greatest of Kingdoms.

To conclude, I must be bold to say, had the first Transgressors been severely Punish'd, when catch'd in the Action, it would have deterr'd others from doing the like Mischiefs; and all Mismanagements and Losses that have since happen'd to this Kingdom, are owing to that H—— of P—— that refused to do the Nation Common J——, when so often Importun'd thereto by your Honourable House.

Braintre,
Feb. 19.
1705.

I am,

Sir,

Your most Devoted Servant,

W. L.

F I N I S.

LONDON: Printed in the Year 1705.



